



Electronic Press Kit

17 August 2020

CAPABLE, ADAPTIVE, PARTNERS



RIMPAC 2020

The United States Navy will sponsor the 27th Rim of the Pacific exercise, from August 17-31, 2020. Hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, this biennial maritime exercise will be an at-sea-only event in order to ensure safety of our service members, participating nations, and Hawaii's population. The flexible approach to RIMPAC 2020 strikes the right balance between combating future adversaries at and from the sea, as well as the COVID-19 threat.



- **10 nations**
- **22 surface ships**
- **1 submarine**
- **Approximately 5,300 personnel**

RIMPAC is designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships, critical to ensuring the safety of sea-lanes and security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

The exercise, which takes place in the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, is a unique training platform designed to enhance interoperability and strategic maritime partnerships.

In light of COVID-19 concerns, RIMPAC 2020 will be an at-sea only event. It will include multinational anti-submarine warfare, maritime intercept operations, and live-fire training events, among other cooperative training opportunities.



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Commander, Combined Task Force

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac/>

Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2020 Begins

PEARL HARBOR - Ten nations, 22 surface ships, one submarine, multiple aircraft, and approximately 5,300 personnel will participate in an at-sea-only iteration of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise scheduled August 17 to August 31, in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands.

The at-sea-only construct for RIMPAC 2020 was developed to ensure the safety of all military forces participating, and Hawaii's population, by minimizing shore-based contingents, while striking a balance between combating future adversaries and the COVID-19 threat. Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet crafted the modified RIMPAC plan as a way to conduct a meaningful exercise with maximum training value and minimum risk to the force, allies and partners, and the people of Hawaii.

"RIMPAC is a unique opportunity for like-minded nations to expand mutual support, increase interoperability, and demonstrate our collective resolve to ensure the Indo-Pacific remains free and open," said Adm. John Aquilino, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "RIMPAC participants share common values, interests and commitment toward mutual security and prosperity. While COVID-19 presents some challenges, all RIMPAC participants are practicing disciplined COVID mitigations to protect the citizens of Hawaii, the force, and prevent the spread of the virus while gaining invaluable experience working alongside our valued partners at sea."

RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's interconnected oceans. RIMPAC 2020 is the 27th exercise in the series that began in 1971.

The theme of RIMPAC 2020 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners." Participating nations and forces will exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of maritime forces. The realistic and relevant training syllabus includes multinational anti-submarine warfare, maritime intercept operations, and live-fire training events, among other cooperative training opportunities.

RIMPAC 2020 contributes to the increased lethality, resiliency, and agility needed by the Joint and Combined Force to deter and defeat aggression by major powers across all domains and levels of conflict. Hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Exercise RIMPAC 2020 will be led by Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, Vice Adm. Scott D. Conn, and will include forces from Australia, Brunei, Canada, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, and the United States.

“While we may be able to surge ships and people, we cannot surge trust,” said Conn. “This formidable team will spend the next two weeks forging relationships and strengthening bonds through a series of events designed to improve our ability to operate together. The work we will do here will make us all more capable and adaptive, and ready to face any challenge or crisis together, whether man-made or a natural disaster.”

Details of RIMPAC activities and imagery are available at www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac. Due to ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts, media embarks and in-person media coverage will not be supported for RIMPAC 2020. Media interested in covering the exercise remotely should contact the C3F Public Affairs Office at (619) 767-4387.

– USN –



Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs
250 Makalapa Drive
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US Pacific Fleet Announces Rim of the Pacific 2020

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii - The United States Navy will sponsor the 27th Rim of the Pacific exercise, Aug. 17-31. Hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, this biennial maritime exercise will be an at-sea-only event in light of COVID-19 concerns. The theme of RIMPAC 2020 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners."

The at-sea-only construct for RIMPAC 2020 was developed to ensure the safety of all military forces participating by minimizing shore-based contingents. Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet crafted the modified RIMPAC plan as a way to conduct a meaningful exercise with maximum training value and minimum risk to the force, allies and partners, and the people of Hawaii. "In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that our maritime forces work together to protect vital shipping lanes and ensure freedom of navigation through international waters," Adm. John Aquilino

The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC is designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships, critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The exercise, which takes place in the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, is a unique training platform designed to enhance interoperability and strategic maritime partnerships. In 2018, 26 nations participated in and around Hawaii. "In these challenging times, it is more important than ever that our maritime forces work together to protect vital shipping lanes and ensure freedom of navigation through international waters," said Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. John Aquilino. "And we will operate safely, using prudent mitigation measures."

As the U.S. Navy continues to limit the spread of COVID-19, RIMPAC 2020 is not scheduled to include social events ashore. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will be accessible for logistics support, with a minimal footprint of staff ashore for command and control, logistics, and other support functions.

This year's exercise will include multinational anti-submarine warfare, maritime intercept operations, and live-fire training events, among other cooperative training opportunities.

Continued planning will remain flexible as Navy leaders monitor and assess evolving circumstances.

“We remain committed to and capable of safeguarding allies and partners throughout the Indo-Pacific region,” said Aquilino. “The flexible approach to RIMPAC 2020 strikes the right balance between combating future adversaries and the COVID-19 threat.”

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Admiral John C. Aquilino

U.S. Navy
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet



Adm. John Aquilino is a native to Huntington, New York. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1984, earning a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He subsequently entered flight training and earned his wings in August 1986.

Operationally, he has served in numerous fighter squadrons flying the F-14 A/B Tomcat and the F-18 C/E/F Hornet. His fleet assignments include the Ghost Riders of Fighter Squadron (VF) 142 and the Black Aces of VF-41. He commanded the World Famous Red Rippers of VF-11, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, and Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2. He has made several extended deployments in support of Operation Deny Flight, Deliberate Force, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Ashore, Aquilino's assignments include duties as an adversary instructor pilot flying the A-4, F-5, and F-16N aircraft for the Challengers of VF-43; operations officer of Strike Weapons and Tactics School, Atlantic; flag aide to the vice chief of naval operations; special assistant for Weapons Systems and Advanced Development in the Office of the Legislative Affairs for the Secretary of Defense; director of Air Wing Readiness and Training, for Commander, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic Fleet and executive assistant to the commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

His flag assignments include director of Strategy and Policy (J5), U.S. Joint Forces Command; deputy director, Joint Force Coordinator (J31), the Joint Staff; commander, CSG-2, director of Maritime Operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N04), deputy chief of naval operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (N3/N5), and most recently, as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. FIFTH Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces

Aquilino graduated from the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), the Joint Forces Staff College and completed Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Education Program in National and International Security.

Aquilino assumed duties as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, May 17, 2018. He is the 36th commander since the fleet's Pearl Harbor headquarters was established in February 1941.

He is entitled to wear the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, as well as several other personal unit and campaign awards. He has accumulated more than 5,100 mishap free flight hours and over 1,150 carrier-arrested landings.



Vice Admiral Scott D. Conn

RIMPAC 2020 Combined Task Force Commander

U.S. Navy

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet



Vice Adm. Scott Conn is a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and a 1985 graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania. He was designated a naval aviator in May 1987. Conn is also a graduate of the Naval War College.

Conn's command tours include Carrier Strike Group 4; Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center, Carrier Air Wing 11, the F/A-18 series Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106; and VFA-136.

Conn's sea tours involved seven deployments on five different aircraft carriers in support of Operations Deliberate Force, Southern Watch, Deny Flight, Ensuring and Iraqi Freedom. He has flown in excess of 100 combat missions, has accumulated over 4,700 flight hours and 1,000 arrested landings.

Ashore, Conn had multiple flying tours involving flight in the A-4, F-5, F-16 and FA-18 series aircraft. His staff tours include serving as the staff general secretary and U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) event planner at the Joint Warfighting Center; as the executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; and as the strike branch director for Director, Air Warfare (N98) and most recently completed a tour as the Director, Air Warfare (N98) on the staff of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

He assumed duties as the 30th Commander U.S. Third Fleet in September 2019.

Conn was the recipient of the 2004 Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Inspirational Leadership award and is authorized to wear the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (six awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (five Strike Fight), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards, one with Combat "V") and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as well as various service and campaign awards.



Captain Jay M. Steingold

RIMPAC 2020 Exercise Director

U.S. Navy

Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, Policy, Training & Readiness (N5/7), U.S. Third Fleet



Capt. Steingold was commissioned in May 1992, following his graduation from the United States Naval Academy. In May 1994, he earned his Wings of Gold and joined the Maritime Patrol & Reconnaissance Force as a naval flight officer (NFO) after completing flight training in Pensacola, Fla., and San Antonio, Tx.

Upon completion of the P-3 NFO fleet replacement squadron (FRS) syllabus in NAS Jacksonville, Fla., Steingold reported to NAS Brunswick, Maine, joining VP-8 in November 1994. He completed two six-month deployments to Sigonella, Italy and participated in Operations Shape Guard and Deliberate Guard in support of NATO.

In August 1998, Steingold reported to Virginia Tech Naval ROTC unit as assistant professor of naval science and taught two semesters before pursuing his next set of sea duty orders. He reported aboard the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) as a catapult & arresting gear officer in September 1999, and deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch.

In October 2001, Steingold commenced a pre-department head tour with VP-30 and was designated an FRS NFO instructor and Orion Weapons & Tactics Instructor (WTI). He served as aircraft division officer and weapons & tactics unit fleet training division officer during his tenure in the "Pro's Nest".

Steingold reported once again to NAS Brunswick, Maine in November 2003, joining VP-26 in a department head role where he served as Safety/NATOPS, administrative officer, training officer and operations officer. During his tour, he deployed to Sigonella, Italy and Bahrain flying missions in support of Operations Deliberate Forge/Joint Guardian, Active Endeavor, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Upon completion of his department head tour in March 2006, Steingold was assigned to the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller as a line analyst responsible for aviation procurement (fixed wing), other procurement (Navy), and research, development, test & evaluation budgets. In August 2007, he transferred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he served as deputy of resources & acquisition management for the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate (J-8).

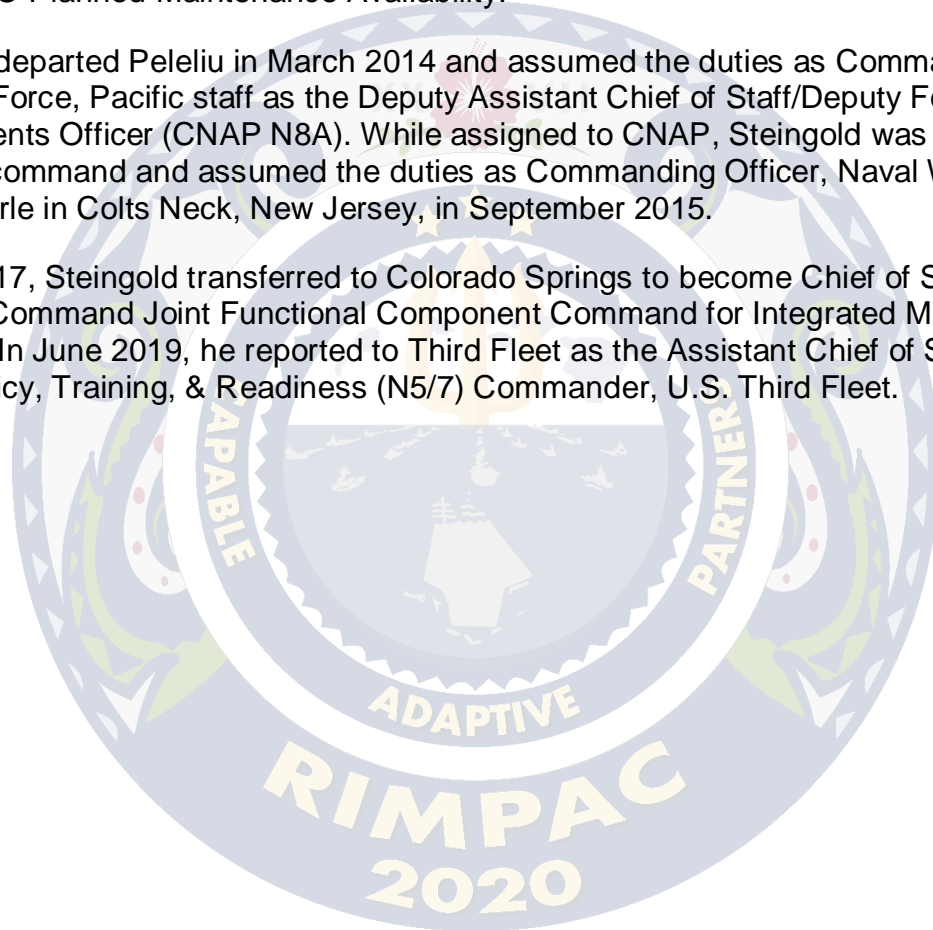
In October 2009, Steingold assumed the duties as VXS-1 executive officer at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Md. He fleeted up as commanding officer in January 2011. Responsible for safe operations of four NP-3D Orions, two RC-12 Guardrails, four Scan

Eagle UAS and the U.S. Navy's only manned, lighter than air (LTA) airship, MZ-3A, Steingold steered the actions of 82 officers, Sailors and civilians in the execution of over 1,200 Class "A" mishap free flight hours in support of ten Office of Naval Research and Naval Research Laboratory missions, including detachments to Iraq, West Africa, and the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.

In May 2012, Steingold reported to USS Peleliu (LHA 5) as executive officer. During his tenure as a "Big Deck Amphib" XO, he conducted training work ups and an eight-month deployment in support of Enduring Freedom. Steingold oversaw the Peleliu's seven-month CNO Planned Maintenance Availability.

Steingold departed Peleliu in March 2014 and assumed the duties as Commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific staff as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff/Deputy Force Requirements Officer (CNAP N8A). While assigned to CNAP, Steingold was selected for major command and assumed the duties as Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Station Earle in Colts Neck, New Jersey, in September 2015.

In May 2017, Steingold transferred to Colorado Springs to become Chief of Staff, U.S. Strategic Command Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense. In June 2019, he reported to Third Fleet as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, Policy, Training, & Readiness (N5/7) Commander, U.S. Third Fleet.





Captain Phillipa Hay

RIMPAC 2020 Task Force One Commander

Royal Australian Navy



Capt. Phillipa Hay comes from a sea-faring family, having sailed around the world at the age of 10. She joined the Royal Australian Navy on Jan. 25, 1993 at HMAS Huon, Tasmania, and graduated the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1995. During Seaman Officer training, Capt. Hay was selected for United States Navy Exchange and deployed in USS John Young (DD 973) as part of Middle East Force (MEF).

In Tobruk (L150) she deployed to Op Belisi (Bougainville Peace Monitory Group), conducted multiple South East Asian Deployments in Newcastle (F06), and served in OP Warden (International Force- Timor Leste) in both Adelaide (F01), and as Executive Officer Jervis Bay II (ARK45). After two years conducting Border Security Operations as Executive Officer Dubbo (FCPB 214), she was selected as Staff Officer Gunnery Minor War Vessel Sea Training Group 2001 and awarded Instructor of the Year. Capt. Hay completed Principal Warfare Officer course in 2003 being awarded the ASW Excellence Award. She proceeded to sea as ASW Officer Arunta and commissioning Operations Officer Ballarat 2004 – 2005.

She has completed roles within Tactical Development Group, leading ASW tactical advancement; and, RAN Experimentation developing future ASW capability. In 2010, Capt. Hay joined HQ JTF 639, the Australian Defence Forces contribution to maritime security, where she was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in her role a Director Operational Plans. Hay was appointed as Executive Officer Naval Base Coonawarra 2015-2017 and joined Fleet Battle Staff to be promoted to Commander and Chief of Staff in Aug 2018.

In Jan 2019, Capt. Hay was the inaugural Commander Task Group 637, Australia's regional engagement mission in South West Pacific. Most recently, CAPT Hay deployed as the Chief of Staff to Commander Task Group 635.3 for the first One Star-led Royal Australian Deployment into South China Sea and the Pacific in 20 years. She has recently been promoted to Captain to execute duties as Commander Task Group 635.3.

Capt. Hay has Bachelor of Science (Double Major Chemistry), Graduate Diploma of Education, is a Graduate of Institute of Company Directors, a Graduate of Next Generation Female Executive Leaders and a passionate advocate for not-for profit boards and sporting organisations.



Captain Kim, Sung Hwan

RIMPAC 2020 Task Force Two Commander

Republic of Korea Navy
Commodore, Maritime Task Squadron

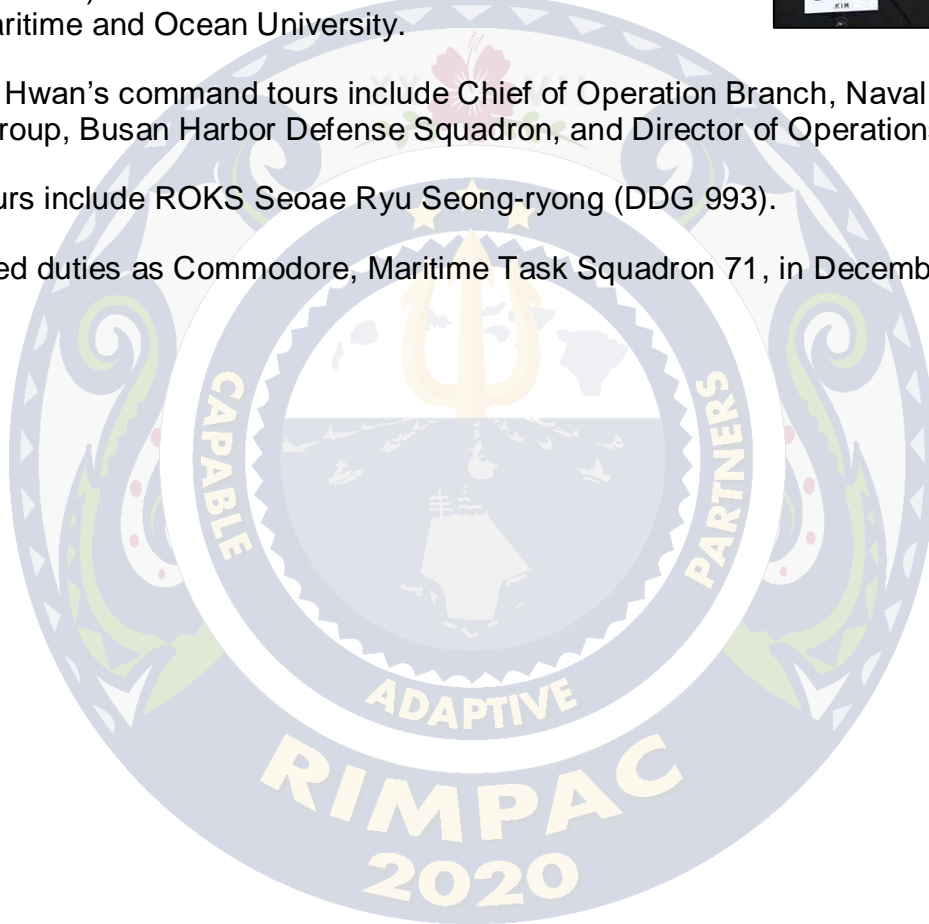


Capt. Kim, Sung Hwan graduated the Republic of Korea Naval Academy in 1992. In 2000, he graduated from Korea's National Defense University. Continuing his education, Kim, Sung Hwan attended the USN Amphibious Warfare School (Advanced Level) as well as received his Ph.D. from the Korean Maritime and Ocean University.

Kim, Sung Hwan's command tours include Chief of Operation Branch, Naval Basic Training Group, Busan Harbor Defense Squadron, and Director of Operations.

His sea tours include ROKS Seoae Ryu Seong-ryong (DDG 993).

He assumed duties as Commodore, Maritime Task Squadron 71, in December 2018.





Rear Admiral Blake Converse

RIMPAC 2020 Task Force Three Commander

U.S. Navy

Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet



Rear Adm. Blake Converse is a native of Pennsylvania. He is a 1987 graduate of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He also holds Master of Science degrees in space systems engineering and applied physics from the Navy Post Graduate School.

His career as a nuclear submarine warfare officer includes assignments aboard USS Lapon (SSN 661), USS Olympia (SSN 717), and USS Minneapolis-St.-Paul (SSN 708) as executive officer. Command assignments include commanding officer, USS Louisiana (SSBN 743) from February 2006 to February 2009 and commander, Submarine Squadron 6 from October 2012 to August 2014.

Ashore, he served as radiological controls officer on the staff of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force; as special assistant to Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command; deputy commander of Submarine Squadron 17; Prospective Commanding Officer course instructor at Naval Reactors Headquarters; and chief of staff to Commander, U.S. Submarine Force.

As a flag officer, he served as director, Joint and Fleet Operations (N3), U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, Submarine Group 9 in Silverdale, Washington.

Converse is currently the commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Joint Commendation Medal, Joint Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) and various unit awards. In 2008, he was awarded the Rear Admiral Jack N. Darby award for Inspirational Leadership and Excellence of Command.